

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
December 4, 2025
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Rochelle Dalla, Christopher Bilder, Dai Shizuka, Tom Kubick, Frauke Hachtmann, Elizabeth Niehaus, Michelle Harvey, Can Vuran, and Colten Skinner. Dean Hope presiding. Jason Carmichael from Graduate Studies.

1. **Approval of Minutes (11/6/25 meeting):** motion to approve, seconded, and passed unanimously.
2. **Proposal to delete three specializations in Political Science:** Dean Hope introduced and provided a brief overview of the proposal to delete the following specializations:
 - *Environmental Studies* specialization from Political Science MA and PhD
 - *Media* specialization from Political Science PhD
 - *Water Resources Planning & Management* specialization from Political Science MAA motion was made to approve deletion of specializations, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. **Proposal to delete specialization in Professional Journalism from Professional Journalism & Mass Communication MA:** Dean Hope introduced and provided a brief overview of the proposal to delete the Professional Journalism specialization. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve deletion of specializations, seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. **Approval to continue to accept Duolingo for English language proficiency through December 31, 2026:** Dean Hope gave a brief reminder of previous discussion regarding this policy and the issues involved. Extending acceptance of Duolingo test scores for another year allows us to continue what we are doing while providing more time to see what happens in the larger context with ETS and CEFR. A motion was made to approve, seconded, and passed unanimously.
5. **Any needed curriculum discussions:** None.
6. **Graduate Student Assembly Report:** Vice President Skinner reported that Nebraska State Senator George Dungan came and spoke to GSA about the state representatives' role in defining the university's budget and budget cuts.
7. **Announcements:**
 - Dean Hope provided an update on OGS staffing, impacts of ITS changes on email, and graduate admissions software changes.
 - There was a discussion of potential falsification of admissions materials using AI. Dean Hope indicated the BTAA is discussing this.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Jason Carmichael